

The Spring Bridegroom.

A NONENTITY WHO IS NEVERTHELESS NECESSARY.

Altruism is just as all pervading as selfishness if one only looks for it in the right place. It is in the spring bridegroom, which leads one to write of the spring bridegroom.

The public is simply overwhelmed with descriptions of the verbal bride. It is told, for example, that Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt had thirty trunks filled with her trousseau, and if others of her less fortunate sisters have not thirty trunks they have at least, if fashion notes can be believed, plenty of boxes, wardrobes, etc., filled with lacy lingerie and charming frocks.

The public is told what the bride will wear at the altar and what she will go away in. It is sometimes informed as to her coming-back dress. It is kept informed

own tie, put his own studs in his linen? Does he have to pack his own bag and forget his own toothbrush, as is the proper way with bridegrooms—there is a certain largeness of view about a man who forgets the trivial at such a time.

Does his favorite bullpup chew the shoe that he has forgotten to put on in his nervous haste? Does he solace himself with a high-ball while he keeps the open book before him and recites loudly, "With all me goodly words, I thee endow?"

Or is he fortunate enough to possess a valet, one of those mysterious French products who come from some unknown chateau of like experiences and have about them on the morning of the ceremony a rather sardonic grin, as if they knew well where it was all going to end?

and the bride, if she be a sensible young woman, will not demand too much of her fiancé's time and attention in that interval. As he will probably tell her, if she asks, the last few days should be spent in thoughtful meditation—a general sobering up, so to speak.

It is said by those who know that a woman will never tell her husband said to her on the momentous occasion when he asked her "lowd she fawncy 'Awkins for her other nym?"

Certain it is that a woman usually manages to evade this inquiry by hook or by crook. Some look forgetful, although, of course, the whole ceremony is indelibly stamped on their sensitive memories; some exhibit maiden blushes until in pity you withdraw your questions; some refuse outright, on the plea that it is too sacred a subject for your inspection. It is natural to suppose that these latter helped the matter along a little. It's tact, tact, tact, you know.

One can't blame them. It is all very well to hold up the list of the rejected for amusement or irony, as the case may be, but to admit that the Only One is guilty of such a speech as he probably uttered at that time is beyond the fortitude of the average woman, even in the privacy of a feminine luncheon.

The proposals of Alphonse are rarely made in the manner stated in the modern novel. Alphonse is very apt to forget his lines or his cue, and with whatever forethought he may have approached the psychological moment, he is liable to get so rattled as to forget the adjectives when the opportunity comes.

It is a pity that that particular part of marital preliminaries could not be left in the care of the loquacious sex. This, of course, does not imply that some do not take it, by force of arms, so to speak.

A woman would do it so gracefully. She would never forget to say that she was the only one she ever loved, as Alphonse is so apt to do.

In the bright lexicon of mutual admiration, forever means perhaps a year, and eternity a decade, and she would never falter over these words, having learned them in that volume. Alphonse is liable to stammer at these times, carelessly using the unabridged edition.

One bridegroom interviewed will do for many.

"What did I say to her when I asked her?"

"Oh, by the way, Fanny, I believe I never asked you. Will you have me?"

"You see we had decided on the color of the dress, and you said just how much we might leave toward wedding presents, and it did seem a little late."

But Fanny said, "I don't stand on ceremony. She laughed and said, 'Certainly, but just exactly as if I had asked her to have a lemon ice.'"

"That's what I like about Fanny, she isn't at all conventional; in fact, I believe we never were really introduced in the Mr. So and So let me present you to Miss So and So style. We just met at a picnic or a house party and took the matter into our own hands."

"What did you say to her father?" he was asked.

The bridegroom lost his air of pleasing reminiscence.

"That," he admitted, "was the most awful experience I have ever had."

"For days I felt pretty savage toward Fanny. It seemed to me that she had been elastic about other conventions, she might stretch a point here, but I believe she enjoyed my discomfort."

"As it was her father, not mine, I felt as if she might run the affair and just say to me kindly, 'Now, dear Tom, don't you worry about pa. I'll tend to him—you just come in to supper Sunday night and it will be all fixed.' There didn't really seem to be any starving need for me to make myself miserable, and at first I thought she would look at the affair just as I did—as something to be avoided rather than run into. So I said, one day, in rather an offhand manner: 'I suppose it is necessary, Fanny, to say something or other to the old man, won't it?'"

"She started right up. 'Would you like to see him now?' she asked. 'I dragged her back quickly by the skirt—heard the lining rip.'"

"Not now," I said hastily. "What's your hurry?"

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"It doesn't have to be typewritten," I responded gloomily.

"Do you suppose pa would give up his evening paper to worry over your handwriting?"

"That was a facet but it was deserved."

"But so long as it was incumbent upon me to do as Fanny wished, I had determined to do it in style. I would make just as flowery a speech as it was possible, one that would not be ashamed to repeat to Fanny when I returned. I had practically tabulated it in the night watches, but, in the trip from drawing room to library, I went all over it again; it ran as near as I can remember something like this: 'Have sowed my wild oats; not an owl since I met your lovely daughter.'"

"Attracted many times, susceptible to beauty in its various phases, perhaps, sir, you understand this, having been—sir—'Never really loved but once—her.' 'Bright star of hope: the only girl.' 'A dutiful, loving son-to-be.'"

"I had to give up the letter-writing scheme. 'Could I just drop into the office casually, hand him a good cigar, and ask him then?'"

"She sighed wearily. 'Pa would just look over his spectacles at you and growl out: 'Well, young man, I'm very busy. What can I do for you?' I'd run it all over in my mind. Besides he always has three clerks in the office with him; you don't want to ask before them, do you?'"

"'Couldn't I meet him on the corner?'" "This was the desperation of weakness and I showed it in my voice and manner."

"'He doesn't wait on corners, as a general thing, for young men to come up and ask for his only daughter.'"

"Then I meditated a little. As long as it had to come, it seemed to me that perhaps I might as well make the best of it. I had not slept for two or three nights worrying over it so I said with assumed courage: 'Where is he?' She pointed

toward the door that led into the library. She turned away and buried her head in the sofa cushions."

"I thought at the time she was a little worried herself notwithstanding her apparent surly, but I believe that she was in fits of laughter; in fact, she confided to me that she never saw any one with such a woe-begone face as I had, and her humor is wonderfully acute."

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"He shook me by the hand, keeping his other in its place, in the book."

"That was all."

"Then I went back to Fanny. I don't think I ever felt smaller. I determined to get even with him some time, when we were better acquainted."

"'What did he say?' asked Fanny. 'I answered gently, my lost composure having returned, as what I said was: 'I thought I a pity that the speech I made in the midnight hours should be lost, so I recited it to Fanny.'"

"That is what I said," I ended triumphantly.

"She was awfully overcome. I never saw her so gentle and sympathetic as she was the rest of the evening."

"I have often wondered since then if Fanny ever asked her father what I really did say. I don't believe she ever did, for she is so proud of me and she certainly could not be if she knew."

"When it comes to the financial part of the

ceremony, the spring bridegroom, although he may be more or less of a nonentity at other times, has no reason to complain of oblivion. He may not only pay for the bride's gift, the souveniers for groomsmen, the bouquet for the bridesmaids, but a hundred other incidental expenses will keep him from sinking into utter forgetfulness. Said another bridegroom interviewed concerning this important event in his life:

"The one memory that stands out in my mind with startling distinctness is the fact that I forgot to pay for the bridesmaids' bouquets. I had asked my fiancée to order them and have the bill sent to me, as I thought she would know so much better what was appropriate. Then the matrons were getting on? Not at all. After he had looked disapproval at several expensive furnishings, he drew the bill from the florist from his pocket and handed it to me saying he thought there had been a little mistake."

"The bill was for \$100 and I wondered how I could have been such a fool as to have said it didn't matter how much they cost. It did matter a good deal. It seems to me that if father-in-law had been a man of fine feelings, he would have paid that bill without saying a word. No man likes to face his past in that way."

ground for research is offered by the constant variations of Poughkeepsie mud. Some may consider this a subject beneath them, but it is, in reality, practically inexhaustible."

"We should all profit by the example of the employees of the Poughkeepsie street car company, who manage to do an enormous amount of 'friendly visiting' along the route. Records made by Vassar students in field day contests are as follows:

Event and Record. Holder. 50-yard dash, 7 seconds. A. S. Wood. 100-yard dash, 15.1 seconds. A. S. Wood. 220-yard dash, 35.1 seconds. A. S. Wood. 440-yard dash, 1.14. A. S. Wood. 880-yard dash, 2.34. A. S. Wood. 1760-yard dash, 5.14. A. S. Wood. 3520-yard dash, 11.14. A. S. Wood. 7040-yard dash, 22.14. A. S. Wood. 14080-yard dash, 44.14. A. S. Wood. 28160-yard dash, 88.14. A. S. Wood. 56320-yard dash, 176.14. A. S. Wood. 112640-yard dash, 352.14. A. S. Wood. 225280-yard dash, 704.14. A. S. Wood. 450560-yard dash, 1408.14. A. S. Wood. 901120-yard dash, 2816.14. A. S. Wood. 1802240-yard dash, 5632.14. A. S. Wood. 3604480-yard dash, 11264.14. A. S. Wood. 7208960-yard dash, 22528.14. A. S. Wood. 14417920-yard dash, 45056.14. A. S. Wood. 28835840-yard dash, 90112.14. A. S. Wood. 57671680-yard dash, 180224.14. A. S. Wood. 115343360-yard dash, 360448.14. A. S. Wood. 230686720-yard dash, 720896.14. A. S. Wood. 461373440-yard dash, 1441792.14. A. S. Wood. 922746880-yard dash, 2883584.14. A. S. Wood. 1845493760-yard dash, 5767168.14. A. S. Wood. 3690987520-yard dash, 11534336.14. A. S. Wood. 7381975040-yard dash, 23068672.14. A. S. Wood. 14763950080-yard dash, 46137344.14. A. S. Wood. 29527900160-yard dash, 92274688.14. A. S. Wood. 59055800320-yard dash, 184549376.14. A. S. Wood. 118111600640-yard dash, 369098752.14. A. S. Wood. 236223201280-yard dash, 738197504.14. A. S. Wood. 472446402560-yard dash, 1476395008.14. A. S. Wood. 944892805120-yard dash, 2952790016.14. A. S. Wood. 1889785610240-yard dash, 5905580032.14. A. S. Wood. 3779571220480-yard dash, 11811160064.14. A. S. Wood. 7559142440960-yard dash, 23622320128.14. A. S. Wood. 15118284881920-yard dash, 47244640256.14. A. S. Wood. 30236569763840-yard dash, 94489280512.14. A. S. Wood. 60473139527680-yard dash, 188978561024.14. A. S. Wood. 120946279055360-yard dash, 377957122048.14. A. S. Wood. 241892558110720-yard dash, 755914244096.14. A. S. Wood. 483785116221440-yard dash, 1511828488192.14. A. S. Wood. 967570232442880-yard dash, 3023656976384.14. A. S. Wood. 1935140464885760-yard dash, 6047313952768.14. A. S. Wood. 3870280929771520-yard dash, 12094627905536.14. A. S. Wood. 7740561859543040-yard dash, 24189255811072.14. A. S. Wood. 15481123719086080-yard dash, 48378511622144.14. A. S. Wood. 30962247438172160-yard dash, 96757023244288.14. A. S. Wood. 61924494876344320-yard dash, 193514046488576.14. A. S. Wood. 123848989752688640-yard dash, 387028092977152.14. A. S. Wood. 247697979505377280-yard dash, 774056185954304.14. A. S. Wood. 495395959010754560-yard dash, 1548112371908608.14. A. S. Wood. 990791918021509120-yard dash, 3096224743817216.14. A. S. Wood. 1981583836043018240-yard dash, 6192449487634432.14. A. S. Wood. 3963167672086036480-yard dash, 12384898975268864.14. A. S. Wood. 7926335344172072960-yard dash, 24769797950537728.14. A. S. Wood. 15852670688344145920-yard dash, 49539595901075456.14. A. S. Wood. 31705341376688291840-yard dash, 99079191802150912.14. A. S. Wood. 63410682753376583680-yard dash, 198158383604301824.14. A. S. Wood. 126821365506753167360-yard dash, 396316767208603648.14. A. S. Wood. 253642731013506334720-yard dash, 792633534417207296.14. A. S. Wood. 507285462027012669440-yard dash, 1585267068834414592.14. A. S. Wood. 1014570924054025338880-yard dash, 3170534137668829184.14. A. S. Wood. 2029141848108050677760-yard dash, 6341068275337658368.14. A. S. Wood. 4058283696216101355520-yard dash, 12682136550675316736.14. A. S. Wood. 8116567392432202711040-yard dash, 25364273101350633472.14. A. S. Wood. 16233134784864405422080-yard dash, 50728546202701266944.14. A. S. Wood. 32466269569728810844160-yard dash, 101457092405402533888.14. A. S. Wood. 64932539139457621688320-yard dash, 202914184810805067776.14. A. S. Wood. 129865078278915243376640-yard dash, 405828369621610135552.14. A. S. Wood. 259730156557830486753280-yard dash, 811656739243220271104.14. A. S. Wood. 519460313115660973506560-yard dash, 1623313478486440542208.14. A. S. Wood. 1038920626231321947013120-yard dash, 3246626956972881